

Chepachet Fire District

Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting

October 16th, 2013

The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, October 16th, 2013. Chairman Earl Newman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present were Robert Lohr, Lynda Martone, George Leonhardt and Eric Croft. Also present were Treasurer David Steere, District Clerk/Secretary Darlene Shields, Chief Robert Dauphinais and Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis and Tax Collector Patricia Svansson.

Motion made by Mr. Newman to suspend with normal business to accommodate Town Council Member Mr. Steere, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Town Council Member Mr. Walter Steere was present on behalf of the

Glocester Town Council for discussion purposes on new Period Lighting being put in on Main Street. The Town Council is looking into who will be paying for the expenses involved with these new lights and what the options are. One of the things that came up at the Council level was that perhaps capping the lights that are currently on Main Street and think that the period lighting will be sufficient. Mr. Steere stated the estimated cost for the new period lighting is \$4,000 annually. Mr. Steere is asking to see where the District stands.

Chief Dauphinais stated that from what he understands from National grid is that the current street lights have been put in years ago for safety issues and they light critical areas (corners and intersections) on Main Street and that National grid does not plan on capping those lights because they were put in for that purpose. Chief also made note that the period lighting is being put in for decoration and not for safety reason which Mr. Steere agreed. Chief has also heard that the lights may be put on timers and if that's the case then Main Street would be dark and the cost of the money is an issue for the District. Chief feels if some lights did get capped and now someone has an accident due to poor lighting what is the Fire District responsibility is a concern.

Mr. Steere hadn't heard anything about timers. Mr. Leonhardt mentioned that in there is a Town in Florida that has decorative lighting those lights to go off at midnight and the Main Streets lights remain on all night. Mr. Leonhardt feels that the period lighting is

nice but to keep them on after midnight would be a waste of money. If they were to go off at midnight then the Main Street would still remain on all night for safety issues as they are now.

Mr. Newman restated that the Fire District Board position is just not interested in any additional costs involved with the lighting of Main Street.

Chief Dauphinais advised everyone that over a year ago when he had heard about the new lighting the Fire District had already discussed and decided they were not interested in taking on the expenses involved with the Main Street period lighting and sent a letter to the Gloucester Town Council in June of 2012 advising them of the Fire District position on the new lighting project. Chief Dauphinais stated that no one had contacted the Fire District as any point to discuss the lighting and that there was no response to our letter from June of 2012. He feels now that the lights are being put in and it's at the 11th hour they need to decide who's paying for this expense.

Mr. Steere didn't feel in 2012 they knew all the facts back then and the costs. Mr. Steere stated that the Town Council thought that if some of the Main Street lights that are currently in place were capped then there would be little or no increase in the Fire District expense.

Mr. Newman restated that the Fire District Board Members are all in agreement that the Fire District is not interested in taking on the

costs for the new period lighting.

Mr. Steere thanked the Board for their time and will bring back this information to the Town's next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Newman to return to normal business, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Secretary's Report:

All members have received copies of the minutes for September 18th, 2013 Monthly Board Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to accept the minutes as presented, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Tax Collector's Report:

Mrs. Svansson provided update on the Tax Sale which was held on Friday the 4th of October. As of the day of the sale there were 19 properties on the list that were unpaid. RI Housing exercised its' rights of first refusal on 2 of the properties. 10 Properties were bid on and sold and 7 reverted back to the Fire Districts. 2 Properties were pulled per Attorney Glenn Carlson about a week prior to the sale because those properties are in foreclosure. All those charges will remain on those bills.

Mrs. Martone asked about the 7 properties and those from previous tax sales that revert back to the District.

Mrs. Svansson said that is something the District will need to decide what to do with these properties every 2 years because they are still being taxed each year even though they went up for tax sale. Mrs. Svansson doesn't think that the District will want to put them up for Tax Sale again in 2 years. The deeds have been recorded with the town of these properties that the District took at the Tax Sale. No

matter what if at some point these properties get sold then the District will get then get their money back. Mrs. Svansson if the District wanted to foreclose on any of those properties that would be a question for Attorney Mr. Craven. Mr. Newman asked about if these properties hold any value and Mrs. Svansson stated that most were small lots that have little value.

Mrs. Martone questioned if the abutters to the lots maybe interested. Most of these bills are \$5 or \$10 annual taxes so they are very small lots. Mr. Leonhardt asked if we could or should contact the property owners that abut these lots. Mr. Steere stated you don't have to do anything and let them sit there until someone one day wants to purchase the land. Mrs. Svansson stated that we can always get our money back on the ones that were not sold at tax sale and the deeds have been recorded at the Town.

At the current rate of .965 would generate \$404,379 in tax revenue and in our budget we need to raise taxes of \$400, 803 Mr. Steere the values went up a little from last year which is why is there a small difference.

Motion made by Mr. Newman to set the tax rate for 2013 at .965, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Tax Collector's Monthly Report, second by Mr. Croft and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Steere presented the Treasurer's Monthly Report for September 2013. We are in good shape. Biggest expense was for insurance at \$29, 904. Most expenses are in line with some going over. Rescue Maintenance is currently over. Chief made note that \$1700 for new tires were put on the Rescue in May and they just billed us last month. That expense should have been in last year budget but with

the late billing it's now in this year's budget.

Accountant Mr. Malo has sent a draft of the Audit and it has been reviewed by both Mrs. Shields and Mr. Steere. Mr. Steere noted the Audit was at 92% after some adjustments are made he is hoping to have the final Audit for the November Monthly meeting.

Mr. Steere referred to the 3rd page of the Treasurer's Report which the total funds balance is \$600,000 of which \$340,000 is dedicated funds and \$266,000 operating funds with taxes to start to come in shortly with the new tax bills going out in December

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Treasurer's Annual Report as presented and to pay the monthly bills, second by Mr. Leonhardt and Passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Chief's Report:

Chief Dauphinais read and submitted the September 2013 Chief's Report to be placed on file. Chief Dauphinais also mentioned that the 3 Departments had their Annual Scholarship Steak Fry and they raised \$8,000.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Chief's Monthly Report for September 2013, second by Mr. Lohr and passed 5-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Committee: Charter Committee:

Mrs. Shields advised everyone one the committee has copies of the charter and the committee will be setting up a time in the coming weeks to start their review of the charter.

Old Business:

1. Investing:

Mr. Steere checked at Pawtucket Credit Union as to their rates for a Money Market and they offered a rate at .4%.

They also offered a 13 month CD at 1.25% and a 24month CD at 1.25% with 2 bump-ups allowed.

They require 2 members at \$5 each to join the credit union and they are FDIC insured. Mr. Steere added that they require back ground checks for those members as well.

Mr. Steere also checked with the Providence Postal Credit Union and they did not have any better to offer. Currently there is \$200,000 in Navigant earning approximately .75% and there was room to add more funds to that money market.

Motion made by Mr. Newman to move \$45,000 from the Citizen's Money Market to the Navigant Money Market and remaining funds in the Citizen's Money Market to be moved into the Citizen's checking account, second by Mr. Croft and passed 5-0

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

New Business:

1. Septic System:

Test Hole has been done. Table until next month

2. New Rescue

Chief Dauphinais wanted to give the Board some notice that will be asking in the coming months for the District to look into putting a committee together to start the process of looking for a new Rescue truck that currently has over 80,000 miles on it and has needed some repairs in the last few months .

The next meeting will be the Monthly Meeting November 20th, 2013 at 6:30pm.

With no further business at this time, motion made by Mr. Lohr to adjourn, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:08m.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman Yes

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman Yes

George Leonhardt Yes

Lynda Martone Yes

Eric Croft Yes

Respectfully submitted, ~~~~~~

Darlene L Shields

Darlene L. Shields

District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District